श्री कपिल सिब्बल: कम से कम आप बासमती को पेटेंट ऑफिस में अमरीका में रजिस्टर तो करवाइए। आप "राईस-टैक" को छोड़िए। इंडियन बासमती को आप पेटेंट तो कराइए, वह कार्यवाही तो आपने की नहीं।

श्री दिग्विजय सिंह: माननीय सभापति जी, जैसा आपका आदेश होगा और जैसी सदन की इच्छा होगी, मैं वही करूंगा।

श्री कपिल सिब्बल: हम भी यही चाहते हैं।

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, I would like to submit that this is an important issue and a lot of misinformation can also come. Therefore, it is better that the Government should make a statement and explain the position. The hon. Minister cannot reply in half. He should prepare a statement analysing the implications of it so that the House can take note of.

श्री दिग्विजय सिंह: माननीय सभापति जी, जैसा आपका आदेश होगा और जैसी सदन की इच्छा होगी, मैं वही करूंगा।

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think the Government should make a statement on this.

श्री दिग्विजय सिंह: माननीय सभापति जी, जैसा आपका आदेश होगा और जैसी सदन की इच्छा होगी, वह मैं करने के लिए तैयार हूं।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Assam Gas Cracker Project

*405. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN:
DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of agreement for supply of gas to the proposed Gas Cracker Project in Assam; and

(b) whether there is any dispute as regards the agreement among the parties, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) 6.35 million standard cubic meters per day (MMSCMD) of gas supply is the estimated requirement for production of 2 lakh tonne per annum (TPA) of ethylene in the Assam Gas Cracker Project for which both Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) and Oil India Limited (OIL) are to supply gas. OIL has signed a Gas Supply Agreement (GSA) on October 19, 2000 with Reliance Assam Petrochemicals Limited (RAPL) for supply of 5.0 MMSCMD for the Assam Gas Cracker Project. The salient features of the agreement are given below:—

(i) The gas supplies by OIL will be 5.0 MMSCMD for 15 years at a concessional price of Rs. 600 per thousand standard cubic meters (SCM) exclusive of royalty, duties, taxes, levies and transportation charges for gas after extracting Ethane and heavier fractions.

(ii) RAPL will extract Ethane and other heavier components required for production of Ethylene from the gas supplied and will return lean gas to OIL.

(iii) Government of India shall compensate OIL for concessional price of gas.

(iv) OIL shall make up the shortfall, whether on account of quality or quantity, by supplying additional quantity of gas at the same concessional price.

(v) RAPL shall pay for loss of calorific value for return gas volume and shall also pay compensation on account of short upliftment of feedstock, while OIL will be liable to pay compensation for net gas short supplies.

(vi) If additional gas is available with OIL after meeting its own requirements, OIL shall supply gas to RAPL to make up the short supply by ONGC only after they have supplied the gas not less than 1.35 MMSCMD.

(vii) The agreement provides for compliance of conditions

precedent set out in the agreement by the respective parties within 18 months from the date of signing of the gas supply agreement. Such condition precedent can be waived by mutual consent or agreement.

RAPL and ONGC are in the process of finalising gas supply agreement for supply of balance feedstock of 1.35 MMSCMD of the Assam Gas Cracker Project.

Merger of IFCI and IDBI

†*406. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to amalgamate the loss making IFCI Ltd. into Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) which is holding 32 per cent equity shares of the former;

(b) whether the Banking Division of Government are also considering to convert the Corporation into Asset Restructuring Company alongwith proposal for amalgamation as reported in the newspaper;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps Government are going to take to bring out the leading financial institution from the financial crisis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Government has decided to shore up Tier-I capital of IFCI by subscribing Rs. 400 crores to the 20 years covertible debentures to be issued by IFCI. Major FIs/Banks who are the main shareholders of IFCI have also agreed to consider favourably IFCI's request to infuse further capital of Rs. 600 crores.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.